

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): An information processing apparatus displaying associated information corresponding to the occurrence of a present event, comprising:

an acquisition ~~means~~ device configured to ~~for acquiring~~ said associated information using existing information corresponding to a past event;

an event occurrence detection ~~means for detecting~~ device configured to detect information corresponding to the occurrence of said present event;

a search ~~means for searching~~ device for searching configured to search said existing information corresponding to a past event having similarity to information corresponding to the present event detected by the event occurrence detection ~~means~~ device; and

a display control ~~means for controlling displaying~~ device configured to control the display of said associated information corresponding to the occurrence of a present event that is related to the existing information corresponding to said past event that is retrieved by said search ~~means~~ device.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said event occurrence detection ~~means~~ device detects sending, receiving, or editing of an electronic mail as said event.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The information processing apparatus according to claim 19, wherein said acquisition ~~means~~ device acquires a title and a URL of a Web page containing said important word as the associated information.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The information processing apparatus according to claim 19, wherein said acquisition ~~means~~ device acquires, in a predetermined timed relation, said associated information related to said important word selected by said selection ~~means~~ device.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The information processing apparatus according to claim 20, further comprising:

if an update condition is satisfied, update means for updating said database constructed by said database construction ~~means~~ device.

Claim 6 (Original): The information processing apparatus according to claim 5, wherein said update condition can be set by a user.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): An information processing method for an information processing apparatus for detecting a key word from a text file corresponding to an event that has taken place and displaying associated information corresponding to said key word, comprising the steps of:

extracting attribute information from an existing text file;

analyzing said extracted attribute information;

selecting an important word from among words contained in said existing text file;

acquiring said associated information related to said important word selected in the selecting step;

text file processing for computing weights for said important word based on use of occurrence frequency in the text file and obtaining associated information for an important word having a higher weight than a predetermined threshold;

constructing a database by use of at least one of said attribute information extracted in the extraction step and said associated information acquired in the acquiring step;

detecting the occurrence of said event;

detecting a key word from said text file corresponding to said event detected in the event occurrence detecting step;

searching said database constructed in the database constructing step for said associated information corresponding to said key word detected in the key word detecting step; and

controlling displaying of said associated information retrieved in the searching step.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): A program storage medium storing a computer-readable program for detecting a key word from a text file corresponding to an event that has taken place and displaying associated information related to said key word, comprising the steps of:

extracting attribute information from an existing text file;

analyzing said extended attribute information;

selecting an important word from among words contained in said existing text file;

acquiring said associated information related to said important word selected in the selecting step;

text file processing for computing weights of said important word based on use of occurrence frequency in the text file and obtaining associated information for an important word having a weight higher than a predetermined threshold;

constructing a database by use of at least one of said attribute information extracted in the extraction step and said associated information acquired in the acquiring step;

detecting the occurrence of said event;

detecting a key word from said text file corresponding to said event detected in the event occurrence detecting step;

searching said database constructed in the database constructing step for said associated information corresponding to said key word detected in the key word detecting step; and

controlling displaying of said associated information retrieved in the searching step.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): An information processing apparatus for displaying a character on a display device and for displaying associated information related to a text file processed by a predetermined application program, comprising:

a processing detection ~~means for detecting~~ device configured to detect, as an event, predetermined processing of said predetermined application program;

a key word detection ~~means for detecting~~ device configured to detect a key word from said text file processed by said predetermined application program corresponding to said event detected by said processing detection ~~means~~ device;

text file processing means for computing the weight of said key word based on use of occurrence frequency in the text file and obtaining associated information for a key word having a higher weight than a predetermined threshold;

a search ~~means for searching~~ device configured to search a database for said associated information by searching a data base for a previous processed existing file corresponding to said key word detected by said keyword detection ~~means~~ device;

an input ~~means for inputting~~ device configured to input a command;

a command processing ~~means for executing~~ device configured to execute, in response to said command inputted by said input ~~means~~ device, processing on said associated information retrieved by said search ~~means~~ device; and

a display control ~~means for displaying~~ device configured to display, in response to said event detected by said processing detection ~~means~~ device, said character onto said display device and changing a manner of displaying said character in response to said command inputted by said input ~~means~~ device.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): The information processing apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said display control ~~means~~ device also displays text information as a script of said character.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): The information processing apparatus according to claim 10, further comprising an output ~~means for outputting~~ device configured to output a voice signal corresponding to said text information displayed by said display control ~~means~~ device.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): The information processing apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said command processing ~~means~~ device displays, on said display device, said associated information retrieved by said search ~~means~~ device in an object form with respect to at least one of movement, storage, and deletion, in response to a display command inputted by said input ~~means~~ device.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): The information processing apparatus according to claim 12, wherein said command processing ~~means~~ device stores said associated information in response to a storage command inputted by said input ~~means~~ device and displays a list of the stored associated information onto said display device.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): The information processing apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said associated information is a URL of a Web page and said command processing means device starts a WWW browser so as to access said URL of said Web page as said associated information in response to an access command inputted by said input means device.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): An information processing method for an information processing apparatus for displaying a character on a display device and for displaying associated information related to a text file processed by a predetermined application program, comprising the steps of:

detecting, as an event, predetermined processing of said predetermined application program;

detecting a key word from said text file processed by said predetermined application program corresponding to said event detected in the processing detecting step;

text file processing for computing the weight of said key word based on use of occurrence frequency in the text file and obtaining associated information for a key word having a weight higher than a predetermined threshold;

searching for said associated information by searching for a previously processed existing file corresponding to said key word detected in the key word detecting step;

inputting a command;

executing, in response to said command inputted in the inputting step, processing on said associated information retrieved in the searching step; and

displaying, in response to said event detected in the processing of said detecting step, said character onto said display device and changing a manner of displaying said character in response to said command inputted in the inputting step.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): A program storage medium storing a computer-readable program for displaying a character on a display device and for displaying associated information related to a text file processed by a predetermined application program, comprising the steps of:

detecting, as an event, predetermined processing of said predetermined application program;

detecting a key word from said text file processed by said predetermined application program corresponding to said event detected in the processing detecting step;

text file processing for computing the weight of said key word based on use of occurrence frequency in the text file and obtaining associated information for a key word having a weight higher than a predetermined threshold;

searching for said associated information by searching a database for a previously processed existing file corresponding to said key word detected in the key word detecting step;

executing, in response to a command inputted, processing on said associated information retrieved in the searching step; and

displaying, in response to said event detected in the processing of said detecting step, said character onto said display device and changing a manner of displaying said character in response to said command inputted.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): An information processing apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising:

a grouping ~~means for grouping~~ device configured to group said existing information into a group of existing information based upon attribute information of said existing information,

wherein said acquisition ~~means~~ device acquires the associated information related to said group of existing information made by said grouping ~~means~~ device as said existing information,

said search ~~means~~ device searches for said group of existing information as said existing information having similarity to information corresponding to the present event detected by the event occurrence detection ~~means~~ device, and

the display control ~~means~~ device controls displaying of said associated information related to said group of existing information as said existing information retrieved by said search ~~means~~ device.

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): An information processing apparatus according to Claim 17, further comprising:

a weight calculation ~~means for calculating~~ device configured to calculate the weight of key words contained in each said group of existing information,

a selection ~~means for selecting~~ device configured to select an important word among said key words based upon said weight of key words,

wherein said acquisition ~~means~~ device acquires said associated information related to said group of existing information using said important word selected by said selection ~~means~~ device.

Claim 19 (Currently Amended): The information processing apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein



said existing information corresponding to said past event is an existing text file and said information corresponding to said present event detected by the event occurrence detection ~~means~~ device is a text file, further comprising,

a selection ~~means for selecting~~ device for selecting an important word from among words contained in said existing text file,

wherein the acquisition ~~means~~ device acquires said associated information by using said important word selected by said selection ~~means~~ device as said existing information.

Claim 20 (Currently Amended): An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

an extraction ~~mean for extracting~~ device configured to extract attribute information from the existing information; and

a database construction ~~means for constructing~~ device configured to construct a database by use of at least one of said attribute information extracted by said extraction ~~means~~ device and said associated information acquired by said acquisition ~~means~~ device.